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Accessions to the Library were reported from the Tokyo Library ; R. Accademia Degli Agiati, Rovereto, Austria ; Naturwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft "Isis," Dresden ; Société des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles, Bordeaux ; Bureau des Longitudes, Paris ; Société de Géographie, Toulouse ; M. Nicholas Ball, Block Island, R. I. ; New York Forest Commission, Albany ; American Museum of Natural History, Prof. J. S. Newberry, New York ; M. J. A. Udden, Rock Island, Ill. ; Academy of Sciences, St. Louis ; University of California, Sacramento ; Observatorio Meteorologico-Magnetico Central, Mexico ; Comissão Geographica e Geologica, San Paulo, Brazil ; Museo Nacional Oficina Meteorologica Argentina, Buenos Aires ; Direccion Central de Estadistica, Guatemala, C. A.

The death of D. Humphrey Storer, M.D., Boston, September 10, 1891, aged 87, was announced.

Prof. Cope offered a paper for the Transactions on the "Ophidians of North America," which was referred to Drs. Horn, Ryder and Heilprin.

Dr. Horn made a communication on the genus *Calospaste*.

Dr. Franz Boaz, of Worcester, Mass., presented through the Secretaries a paper entitled, "Vocabularies of the Tlingit, Haida, etc., Languages."

Prof. Cope made some remarks on the results of a late expedition to the Gallapagos islands.

Pending nominations Nos. 1230 and 1231 were read.

And the Society was adjourned by the presiding member.

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*Stated Meeting, October 16, 1891.*

Present, 17 members.

Vice-President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER in the Chair.

Correspondence was submitted as follows :

A circular was received from the Local Committee on Organization of Pan-Republic Congress and Human Freedom

League, inviting the Society to its reunion on October 12 and 13, 1891, at the State House and Academy of Music.

A circular from the Naturhistorische Gesellschaft zu Nürnberg, announcing the celebration of its ninetieth year.

A circular from the Académie Royale des Sciences de Lisbonne, announcing the death of its Secretary, José Maria Latino Coelho, on August 29, 1891.

Mr. Paul Leicester Ford requested by letter the permission to consult the draft of the Declaration of Independence, now stored away with other valuable papers of the Society.

Letters from the President and Mr. W. S. Baker were read in support of the request.

On motion, the Curators were authorized to restore to a place in the fireproof building of the Society its manuscript of the Declaration of Independence in the autograph of Thomas Jefferson.

Dr. Hays moved as an amendment "that it be kept in a fireproof safe."

The amendment, being put to a vote, was not agreed to, and the original motion was adopted by the Society.

On motion, it was resolved that Mr. Ford be permitted to have access to the document in question in the presence of one of the Curators of the Society.

Letters of envoy were received from the Académie Royale des Sciences, etc., de Belgique, Bruxelles; Société des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles, Bordeaux; Bureau des Longitudes, École Polytechnique, Musée Guimet, Ministère des Travaux Publiques, Paris.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Royal Society of N. S. Wales, Sydney, Australia (134); Accademia degli Agiati, Rovereto, Austria (134); K. K. Naturhistorisches Hofmuseum, Dr. Aristides Brezina, Vienna (135); Dr. Caspar René Gregory, Leipzig (135); Académie des Sciences, Belles Lettres et Arts, Bordeaux (134); Société de Géographie, Lille, France (135); École d'Agriculture, Montpellier (135); Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle (128); M. Victor Duruy, Prof. A. de Quatrefages, Paris (135); Natural History and Philo-

sophical Society, Belfast (134); College of Pharmacy, Philadelphia (135); Central Meteorological Observatory, Mexico (135); Mr. Everard F. im Thurn, British Guiana (135).

Accessions to the Library were reported from the Société Royale de Géographie d'Anvers; Académie Royale des Sciences, Bruxelles; Geographische Gesellschaft, Bern; Naturhistorische Gesellschaft, Nürnberg; Accademia delle Scienze, Torino; Ministère des Travaux Publiques, Paris; Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society, Halifax, England; Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, Montreal Geological Society of America, Rochester, N. Y.; Free Public Library of Jersey City; Messrs. J. E. Ives, Henry Phillips, Jr., Pennsylvania Prison Society, Philadelphia; U. S. Department of Agriculture, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Mr. W. Curtis Taylor, Tacoma, Wash.

A photograph was received for the Album from Dr. Caspar René Gregory, Leipzig.

The Committee appointed to examine Prof. Cope's paper, offered at the last meeting for the Transactions, reported that he desired to withdraw the same and recommended that the request be granted. On motion, the Society permitted the paper to be withdrawn.

The stated business of the meeting was then taken up, and pending nominations Nos. 1230 and 1231 were read, spoken to and balloted for.

The following minute was read from the Library Committee:

STATED MEETING, OCTOBER 10, 1891.

The Chairman was authorized to report to the Society the suggestion that the fireproof for the valuable books and papers heretofore ordered by a vote of the Society, which order was not executed because of the absence of any sufficient foundation for the fireproof, be now carried into effect, as the walls of the building appear to be entirely sufficient for that purpose.

On motion, the Library Committee respectfully requested the Curators to indicate to the Committee what cases they will need for the purposes mentioned by Dr. Morris to the Committee for the display of antiquities, etc.

Dr. Morris, on behalf of the Curators, stated the reasons why at present the Curators could not designate exactly how much was wanted; that much of the collections of the Society was as yet unpacked and temporarily inaccessible; that until the Curators knew how much space would be needed they could not designate it.

Mr. McKean moved that the Committee on Hall be requested to carry into effect the order of the Society, made several years ago, to procure a fireproof safe for the safe custody of the valuable books and papers of the Society, or to inform the Society, if they find such to be the fact, that the walls of the Society's building are not yet deemed strong enough to support such a safe.

Mr. DuBois inquired as to whether any limit had been placed as to the size and price of such a safe.

The Secretaries replied that in the original motion there was no limitation.

Dr. Cope suggested that a new base might have to be built to support so great a weight.

Dr. Greene suggested that several small safes might better serve the purpose than one large one.

Prof. Barker suggested that a vault could be erected in the basement of the Society's building as a receptacle for its documents.

On motion of Mr. McKean, the motion was referred to the Hall Committee.

All other business of the meeting having been disposed of, the Tellers reported the result of the voting for candidates to the Presiding Member, who declared that

2197. Prof. George Forbes, F.R.S., London,

2198. Mr. Joseph G. Rosengarten, Philadelphia,  
had been duly elected members of the Society.

And the Society was adjourned by the President.